

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial
Relations
News For Immediate Release
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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, September 17, 2004.....Unemployed workers in twelve counties declared disaster areas as a direct result of Hurricane Ivan may be eligible for benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program according to Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

The affected counties are Baldwin, Butler, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Escambia, Geneva, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington.

Kennedy said persons eligible for DUA benefits are those who worked in or live in these counties and became unemployed as a direct result of Hurricane Ivan.

Claims for state unemployment compensation (UC) benefits may be filed beginning 7:00 AM on Monday, September 20, 2004 by calling 1-866-234-5382. Generally, persons who are eligible for state unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA, but the claimant may qualify for DUA if state UC benefits are exhausted. Self-employed individuals will be requested to provide a copy of their 2003 income tax records. **The final date to file a claim in these counties is October 15, 2004.**

DUA services are administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through its network of Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across the state. Funding is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: www.dir.state.al.us.